

PRESIDENT BIDEN IS LEAVING YOU BEHIND

(Mr. BERGMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of all Americans who feel that they are being abandoned by the current administration. I share this sentiment.

To be clear, President Biden is the President of now leaving you behind. He will leave you behind in Afghanistan. He will leave your job behind if you don't comply with his mandates. He will leave our borders behind in favor of illegal immigrants. He will leave our economy behind for China to surpass. He plain old leads from behind.

I propose we leave President Biden's dangerous policies behind before our children's futures are ultimately destroyed. It is time for our leaders to put America first by securing our border, keeping our Nation's promises to veterans and overseas allies, and in ending the senseless Washington spending addiction.

PRESIDENT BIDEN IS LEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, President Biden is leading this country in the right direction. He is moving us forward, but the Republicans refuse to see it.

The Build Back Better bill will help middle class families, produce more jobs, reduce taxes, and make costs less on prescription drugs, on home healthcare for seniors, on childcare for working mothers, and give them an opportunity to participate in America's economy.

President Biden led us on the bipartisan infrastructure bill. Bipartisan? Yeah, not much. There were 17 Republicans in the Senate, maybe 16, only 13 in the House. There is nothing partisan about getting goods to market, about speeding up the supply chain, which happens when you get good roads and the opportunity for trucks to travel on them, trains to proceed, and airplanes to deliver their cargo.

President Biden is leading us in the right direction. We just have to hope that the Senate and the Republicans here will help us in this last month as we try to raise the debt ceiling to pay for Trump's tax scam and to pass a budget.

BUILD BACK BROKE

(Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the most expen-

sive bill and largest tax increase in American history, the recently passed build back broke bill.

The legislation reads like a far-left Christmas wish list that isn't completely paid for. It is filled with more than 150 social programs and budget gimmicks that make these expensive programs appear less costly on paper, although Democrats intend to make them permanent.

Some of these include \$7.4 billion for electric bicycles, a SALT tax cut of \$25,900 for millionaires, \$80 billion to the IRS, and \$100 billion toward amnesty for illegal immigrants.

What is equally concerning is what is not in the bill. Within the 2,000 pages, there is not a single mention of border control, China, or Afghanistan. This year especially, with record-breaking southern border apprehensions, Chinese missile testing, and the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, Congress should prioritize investing in our country's safety and security.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats have doubled down on failed policies and irresponsible spending. It is simply out of touch with the desires of the American people.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S ENERGY CRISIS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, President Biden's energy crisis is the Christmas gift that nobody asked for.

The national average for a gallon of gas reached \$3.39 as of last Friday, the most Americans have paid at the pump since the Obama-Biden administration.

Home heating costs are projected to rise as much as 54 percent for some households this winter. House Democrats are even pushing a "heat your home tax" just in time for the holidays.

If Americans thought Thanksgiving cost an arm and a leg, just wait until President Biden's failed policies torpedo Christmas entirely. At this rate, the only things Americans will find under their Christmas trees and in their stockings are more bills, not presents.

Mr. Speaker, this lunacy must end.

HONORING AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN FIRST CLASS JOSHUA GAETA

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a military servicemember from my district for his historic and heroic actions that saved over 30 lives.

Earlier this year, Joshua Gaeta of Muscatine and his Coast Guard crew were successful in a daring search and rescue operation involving 31 fishermen

stranded on a ship that caught fire 200 miles off the coast of Nova Scotia, Canada.

Facing winds of over 50 miles an hour, waves 30-feet high, and freezing cold temperatures, our Coast Guard, with Gaeta on board, bravely flew their helicopters to the scene and were able to save all 31 crew members.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Aviation Maintenance Technician First Class Gaeta and all our servicemembers for all that they do to keep our country safe.

CONGRESS HAS A CHOICE TO MAKE

(Mr. ROY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, we have a choice to make this week. We have a choice to make whether we are going to fund the United States Government and to fund the executive branch when that executive branch is carrying out often unlawful, unconstitutional, but certainly, unhelpful and foolish mandates that are crushing small businesses and causing people to lose their jobs, forcing our members of the military to lose their ability to serve, forcing members of the Border Patrol, DEA, and hospitals across this country to lose workers because of these mandates.

Why would anybody in this Chamber vote to fund a government that is going to mandate that people have to lose their jobs through these unlawful orders?

And the second thing we have got to decide is whether we are going to vote for a National Defense Authorization Act that, for the first time in history, will add women, 18-year-old girls, to the draft, without so much as a debate in this Chamber.

I think we have an easy call, but we have got to make that call this week and decide what we are going to do.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1531

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YARMUTH) at 3 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules

on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

MATERNAL VACCINATION ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 951) to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national campaign to increase awareness of the importance of maternal vaccinations for the health of pregnant and postpartum individuals and their children, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 951

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Maternal Vaccination Act”.

SEC. 2. MATERNAL VACCINATION AWARENESS AND EQUITY CAMPAIGN.

(a) CAMPAIGN.—Section 313 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 245) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “and among pregnant and postpartum individuals,” after “low rates of vaccination,”;

(2) in subsection (c)(3), by striking “prenatal and pediatric” and inserting “prenatal, obstetric, and pediatric”;

(3) in subsection (d)(4)(B), by inserting “pregnant and postpartum individuals and” after “including”; and

(4) in subsection (g), by striking “\$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025” and inserting “\$17,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026”.

(b) ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.—Section 317(k)(1)(E) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b(k)(1)(E)) is amended—

(1) in clause (v), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following clause:

“(vii) increase vaccination rates of pregnant and postpartum individuals, including individuals from racial and ethnic minority groups, and their children; and”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 951.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, we are continuing our work to combat the maternal mortality and morbidity crisis facing our country. The legislation before us will help ensure that pregnant women and their healthcare providers are aware of the benefits and availability of safe and effective vaccines.

Tragically, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that about 700 women die each year in the United States as a result of pregnancy or delivery complications.

While there is no one cause of pregnancy-related death or health complications, we know that some illnesses like flu, pertussis, and COVID-19 can cause serious harm to pregnant women, including early labor and delivery and other complications. Vaccines prevent these illnesses and can save the lives of pregnant and postpartum women and their children.

However, despite strong evidence of vaccines’ safety and efficacy, vaccine uptake among pregnant women is far below targeted goals.

We can and should do more to increase the vaccination rate of pregnant women. H.R. 951, the Maternal Vaccination Act, will ensure that our vaccination outreach and awareness campaigns and public health grant programs include outreach to obstetric healthcare providers, as well as pregnant and postpartum women. The legislation will also ensure that we are reaching women from racial and ethnic groups and their children.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this commonsense public health effort, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, current data clearly suggests that vaccinations for women during pregnancy can protect mothers and newborns against infectious diseases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has long recommended various vaccinations for pregnant women to improve maternal and infant health outcomes.

Despite these recommendations, vaccination rates among pregnant women remain relatively low. But according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, when a vaccine recommendation comes directly from a patient’s own OB-GYN, the likelihood of accepting that vaccine could be up to 50 times higher.

The Maternal Vaccination Act requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to include obstetric providers in existing vaccination public awareness campaign programs to help increase vaccinations among pregnant and postpartum women.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in proud support of H.R. 951 “The Maternal Vaccination Act.”

I would like to thank Congresswoman SEWELL for introducing this legislation.

This bill establishes a national campaign to raise awareness and increase rates of maternal vaccinations and calls for the CDC to consult with various stakeholders to carry out this campaign.

In addition, the CDC must focus on increasing vaccination rates among communities with

historically high rates of unvaccinated individuals.

The CDC must also make publicly available any materials and resources developed for the campaign.

In addition, H.R. 951 would instruct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to broaden a public awareness campaign on vaccinations to include pregnant and postpartum individuals and require the campaign to disseminate vaccine information to providers and facilities that provide obstetric care.

The bill would also authorize an additional \$2 million annually from 2021 through 2025 for the vaccination awareness campaign.

This bill would put pregnant women at the focus of the fight to combat COVID-19.

As the Chair of the Congressional Coronavirus Task Force, I have used every means possible to sound the alarm about the seriousness of the COVID-19 virus.

On February 10, 2020, I held the first press conference on the issue of COVID-19 at Houston Intercontinental Airport.

I then held a second press conference on February 24th to continue efforts to raise public knowledge of the impending threat.

On February 26th, I wrote the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security requesting to be briefed by Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf regarding the preparedness of the Department of Homeland Security to address a possible pandemic.

On March 19th, I announced an innovative partnership with United Methodist Medical Center (UMMC) to open the first drive-through Coronavirus Test Screening facility in the Greater Houston area, which proved beneficial to everyone in the Greater Houston area, as with UMMC’s help we have opened multiple sites that are located within high-risk communities in the Greater Houston area, to reduce the need for travel to get access to COVID-19 testing.

Since the start of this pandemic, I have sought to proactively address the critical issues and concerns tied to the COVID-19 virus.

As I stated at the beginning of this pandemic, “We must not panic, but prepare.”

I am pleased to see that this bill is not a panic-induced response, but a well-thought-out proposal to further protect our citizens.

When pregnant women get vaccinated, they not only build their immune system to the virus, they also create antibodies for their unborn child.

Throughout history the vaccination of pregnant mothers has shown to be beneficial when it comes to viruses like tetanus, influenza, pertussis.

With this bill we can help newborn children who have not yet developed their immune systems fight off a deadly virus such as COVID-19.

This also gives mothers piece of mind that they’ll be safe as they advance in their pregnancy.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in proud support of H.R. 951, the Maternal Vaccination Act.

I would like to thank Congresswoman SEWELL for introducing this legislation.

This bill establishes a national campaign to raise awareness and increase rates of maternal vaccinations and calls for the CDC to consult with various stakeholders to carry out this campaign.